



# JACK DOYLE

## MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **DOYLE ANNOUNCES ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER**

*Facility will train workers for high-tech jobs*

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle was joined by Monroe Community College (MCC) President R. Thomas Flynn today at the announcement of the Advanced Technology Education Center (ATEC) -- a 240,000-square foot technical education/training center. The new facility will be the centerpiece of a new workforce development approach in Monroe County.

"As we recruit and expand high-tech companies in Monroe County, we need to have the right mechanisms in place to ensure access to a well-trained workforce," said Doyle. "The new Advanced Technology Education Center will be used to train workers with the skills needed by current and future employers. Companies like Corning and dozens of others, have decided to place roots in our community and we need to feed this commitment with skilled workers."

"Community colleges exist to meet the needs of their communities," said R. Thomas Flynn, MCC president. "MCC offers quality technical programs, a successful track record with similar partnerships, and a respected liberal arts core to complement the technical skills with communication and critical thinking skills. The College, County and industries in partnership can make this happen for the economic well-being of our community."

The ATEC facility would offer education and training in Telecommunications, Biomedical/Pharmaceuticals, Optics & Imaging, Precision Manufacturing, Medical Research and IT/MIS Business Services. Doyle has identified these six areas as critical "clusters" for job growth and the long-term vitality of Monroe County.

Doyle specifically targeted these clusters, based on their current need for skilled workers and their future potential for growth. Monroe County's Planning & Development Department would work with prospective and existing employers within these fields to coordinate their skilled workforce needs with the resources at the ATEC. The cluster model would be used as the driving force in future economic development strategies for the county.

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*Clusters are defined as: co-located businesses sharing a geographic center and providing products and services in a specific industry sector, energized by a local network of suppliers, collaborative research facilities, public/private financial sources, supportive governmental agencies and community institutions.*

The ATEC would work within this definition as a public/private partnership and would mirror the county and college's current relationship with the precision tooling and machining industry at the Applied Technologies Center on West Henrietta Road. Following that model, industry leaders would commit marketing and curriculum expertise, adjunct faculty, equipment, internships and jobs for graduates. The success of the Applied Technologies Center has demonstrated that this approach is successful and has shown both the county and MCC that the ATEC facility would be a valuable tool for economic development through workforce development.

The college brings to the table established programs, quality teaching, a national reputation for innovation and expertise in managing training and education programs. In addition to other degree and certificate programs, the Center would also offer non-credit programming such as information technology certifications (CISCO, Microsoft, etc.), call center training, and courses developed upon business request.

Doyle and MCC officials are looking to site the ATEC within the Inner Loop – providing central access from throughout Monroe County. A specific site decision won't be made until an assessment of the facility's physical needs is complete.

Capital projects at the college are typically funded jointly by Monroe County and the State University of New York. Funding details are yet to be worked out, although, initial estimates put the project at between \$50 and \$60 million.

"The ATEC facility will tie in with and complement Governor Pataki's Center for Excellence and it will provide critical support for our fastest growing employers," said Doyle. "As our local cutting edge firms continue to thrive, it is critical that technically proficient workers are available to meet their needs and to facilitate their ability to expand. I believe that this new facility will be one of the critical education components in our community's future ability to compete in the global marketplace."

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